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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/755,601	01/12/2004	Bruce Johnson	200311317-1	9548

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EXAMINER	
HUFFMAN, JULIAN D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2853	

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/755,601	JOHNSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Julian D. Huffman	2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-28* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-23 and 26-28* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *24 and 25* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12 January 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *1/12/04*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-14, 16-23, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richards et al. (U.S. 6,351,621 B1).

Richards et al. discloses :

With regards to claim 1, a printer component (fig. 2) comprising:

an interface configured for removably electrically coupling to a printer (fig. 2, element 52, column 5, line 56-column 6, line 6); and

a memory (34) that stores a unique identifier of the printer (column 4, lines 62-67) through the interface if the interface is electrically coupled to the printer (memory has an interface to electrically connect memory to printer, column 5, line 56- column 6, line 6).

With regards to claim 2, the printer component of claim 1, wherein the unique identifier comprises a serial number of the printer (column 4, lines 62-67).

With regards to claim 4, the printer component of claim 1, wherein the memory further stores a plurality of unique identifiers, with each unique identifier representing a different printer to which the interface has been electrically coupled (column 4, lines 62-67).

With regards to claim 5, the printer component of claim 4, wherein each unique identifier is stored in a table in the memory (fig 2, element 34, data is stored in a table format).

With regards to claim 6, the printer component of claim 1, wherein the printer component comprises a printer cartridge (column 3, lines 32-36, supply of toner, photoreceptor or fusing device are all printer cartridges since they house specific components in a removable housing).

With regards to claim 7, the printer component of claim 6, wherein the printer cartridge comprises one of an ink reservoir, an ink supply, a toner reservoir, and a toner supply (toner supply).

With regards to claim 8, the printer component of claim 7, wherein the one of the ink reservoir, the ink supply, the toner reservoir, and the toner supply is refillable (column 4, lines 33-35).

With regards to claim 9, a replaceable printer component comprising:

means for electrically coupling to a printer (fig. 2, element 32, column 5, line 56-column 6, line 6); and

means (element 34) for storing a first unique identifier of a first printer if the means for electrically coupling to the printer is electrically coupled to the first printer (column 4, lines 63-67).

With regards to claim 10, the replaceable printer component of claim 9, further comprising: means (element 34) for storing a second unique identifier of a second printer if the means for electrically coupling to the printer is electrically coupled to the second printer (column 4, lines 63-67).

With regards to claim 11, the replaceable printer component of claim 10, wherein the means for storing the first unique identifier comprises a first entry in a table and the means for storing the second unique identifier comprises a second entry in the table (column 4, lines 63-67 and fig. 2, element 34).

With regards to claim 12, a printing system comprising:

a printer (fig. 1) including a printer memory (element 12, control board controls operation of entire printer, column 3, lines 57-58) that stores a unique identifier of the printer (column 4, lines 63-67, the controller stores the unique identifier and writes it to the printer component memory); and

a printer component (fig. 2) including a component memory (34), the printer component configured for removable installation in the printer, wherein the printer is configured to write the unique identifier of the printer to the component memory if the printer component is installed in the printer (column 4, lines 63-67).

With regards to claim 13, the printing system of claim 12, further comprising:

a user interface (fig. 1, element 20) configured for displaying the unique identifier (column 6, lines 13-26) .

With regards to claim 14, the printing system of claim 12, wherein the component memory comprises a table for storing a list of unique identifiers (element 34).

With regards to claim 16, the printing system of claim 14, further comprising:

a user interface (20) configured for displaying the table (column 6, lines 13-26).

With regards to claim 17, the printing system of claim 12, further comprising:

a controller (12) configured for reading the unique identifier from the printer memory and writing the unique identifier to the component memory (column 4, lines 63-67).

With regards to claim 18, the printing system of claim 17, wherein the controller is further configured for controlling the operation of the printer (column 3, lines 57-58).

With regards to claim 19, the printing system of claim 12, further comprising:

a remote monitor module configured for communicating information about the printer component to a remote device (column 2, lines 65-67, column 6, lines 13-26).

With regards to claim 20, the printing system of claim 19, wherein the information comprises the unique identifier (column 4, lines 63-67 and column 6, lines 13-26).

With regards to claim 21, a method of tracking a printer component, the method comprising:

installing a printer component in a first printer; and

writing a first unique identifier of the first printer to a memory of the printer component (column 4, lines 63-67).

With regards to claim 22, the method of claim 21, further comprising:

removing the printer component from the first printer;

installing the printer component in a second printer; and

writing a second unique identifier of the second printer to the memory of the printer component (column 4, lines 63-67).

With regards to claim 23, the method of claim 21, further comprising:

providing a user interface (20) for the first printer; and

displaying the first unique identifier written to the memory of the printer component through the user interface (column 6, lines 13-26).

With regards to claim 26, the method of claim 23, further comprising:

displaying a history of the printer component through the user interface, the history including the unique identifiers written to the memory during a lifetime of the printer component (column 4, lines 63-67 and column 6, lines 13-26).

With regards to claim 27, the method of claim 26, wherein the user interface (fig. 2, element 20) is coupled to a network communication link (signal line to printer) that is coupled to a printer in which the printer component is installed (column 2, lines 65-67, column 6, lines 24-26).

3. Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 12, 17, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Croley et al. (U.S. 2004/0125165 A1).

Croley et al. discloses

With regards to claim 1, a printer component (fig. 1, element 26) comprising:

an interface configured for removably electrically coupling to a printer (element 30, 0018); and

a memory (36) that stores a unique identifier of the printer through the interface if the interface is electrically coupled to the printer (0038-0043, cartridge ID number, provided by the printer to the printer component, which is a part of the printer).

With regards to claim 3, the printer component of claim 1, wherein the memory comprises write once read many memory (0038, last 3 lines).

With regards to claim 6, the printer component of claim 1, wherein the printer component comprises a printer cartridge (fig. 1, element 26).

With regards to claim 7, the printer component of claim 6, wherein the printer cartridge comprises one of an ink reservoir, an ink supply, a toner reservoir, and a toner supply (0020).

With regards to claim 8, the printer component of claim 7, wherein the one of the ink reservoir, the ink supply, the toner reservoir, and the toner supply is refillable (the supply is capable of being refilled).

With regards to claim 9, a replaceable printer component comprising:

means for electrically coupling to a printer (interface to line 30, 0018); and

means (memory 36) for storing a first unique identifier of a first printer if the means for electrically coupling to the printer is electrically coupled to the first printer (0038-0043, cartridge ID number, provided by the printer to the printer component, which is a part of the printer).

With regards to claim 12, a printing system comprising:

a printer (fig. 1) including a printer memory (fig. 1, element 38, 0028) that stores a unique identifier of the printer (0038-0043, printer component is a part of the printer, processor 38 has a RAM and generates a unique ID which is then stored in printer component); and

a printer component including a component memory (36), the printer component configured for removable installation in the printer, wherein the printer is configured to write the unique identifier of the printer to the component memory if the printer component is installed in the printer (0038-0043).

With regards to claim 17, the printing system of claim 12, further comprising:

a controller configured for reading the unique identifier from the printer memory and writing the unique identifier to the component memory (38, 0039).

With regards to claim 18, the printing system of claim 17, wherein the controller is further configured for controlling the operation of the printer (0028).

With regards to claim 21, a method of tracking a printer component, the method comprising:

installing a printer component in a first printer; and

writing a first unique identifier of the first printer to a memory of the printer component (0038-0043).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 15 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards et al. in view of Hirst et al. (U.S. 5,930,553).

Richards et al. discloses everything claimed as discussed in paragraph 1 above with the exception of storing at least one of an index, date or time upon writing of the unique identifier of the printer to the component memory, or a time at which the printer component was installed in the first printer memory of the print component.

Hirst et al. discloses writing a time of initial insertion of a replaceable component into a memory of the replaceable component (column 3, lines 16-33).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to write a date of initial insertion of the replaceable component into the component memory of Richards et al. upon writing the unique identifier into the component memory, as suggested by Hirst et al., for the purpose of allowing manufacturers to "gather key information more accurately and easily" (column 3, lines 30-31).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 24 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The primary reason for the indication of allowability of claims 24 and 25 is the inclusion of the method steps of tracking a printer component comprising writing a first unique identifier of a first printer to a memory of a printer component, writing a second unique identifier of a second printer to a memory of the printer component and determining if the printer component has been installed in an unauthorized printer by checking a plurality of unique identifiers stored in the memory of the printer component to determined if one of the unique identifiers indicates an unauthorized printer. It is these steps found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of, that have not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julian D. Huffman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2147. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30a.m.-6:00p.m. Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Julian D. Huffman
20 September 2005